NBC

FARM AND HOME HOUR

ADVERTISER

WRITER

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS-EPISODE NO. 405

PROGRAM TITLE

OK

CHICAGO OUTLET

WMAQ-BLUE

(TIME) 11:30-12:30 PM

(DATE) SEPTEMBER 27, 1940

(DAY) FRIDAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

C-PRO. 95

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers

MUSIC: Ranger Song

ANNOUNCER: Here in America we've had a habit of taking our forests for granted.--- we've never appreciated what our forests have done for us or what they mean to us, half enough. Our fore-fathers were anxious to clear the forest and get rid of it, even though it was the forest that largely supported the pioneers and literally built the Nation. Our forest industries today afford employment and income directly supporting nearly six million citizens. And in addition to the thousands upon thousands of material contributions of the forest to our physical needs, comforts and conveniences, there is the great general usefulness of the forest in keeping the land productive and habitable also to be considered. Forests give us a great deal of protection -- far more than we realize. They protect our rich valleys and lowlands against inundations of silt and debris. They perpetuate springs and purify and equalize the flow of water in rivers and streams. Our forests provide homes for birds, game and furbearing animals and they add beauty and interest to the landscape for our recreational and spiritual enjoyment. Yet in spite of the important place of the forest in our economic system and its many other contributions to our welfare, our tendency has been to simply take the forest for granted - - to mine the forest rather than to crop it and to meet today's forest needs at the expense of tomorrow's. In many parts of the country decreasing timber production, receding land values, loss of employment and earning power, ghost towns and declining tax revenues bear eloquent witness to the fact that we haven't appreciated our forests enough.

(MORE)

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(MORE)

ANNOUNCER: CONTINUED:

So let's do everything possible right now to help our forestry agencies rebuild these forest wastelands and put them back in useful production again.

But now for a look-in on our friends Ranger Jim Robbins, his wife Bess, Jerry Quick the assistant ranger, and his sweetheart, Mary Halloway, the Winding Creek school teacher. Today we find all four of them at the Willow Glen Forest Festival. Celebrating the beauty and benevolence of the forest the little mountain city of Willow Glen is packed with color and excitement, and festivities are in full swing. And right now we're just in time for the championship chopping and sawing contests, with Ranger Jim and Jerry in charge of the proceedings.

MONTAGE OF RESTIVE CROWD SOUNDS BACK

JERRY: (OUTDOOR MIKE) Hey Jim....

JIM: Yeah, Jerry?

JERRY: The choppers are all lined up and all the judges and timers are here except Al Perkins, Jim. As soon as he shows up we can get the contest underway.

JIM: Okay, Jerry. The crowd seems to still be coming. So we can wait a few minutes anyway.

JERRY: Did you see all the fancy prizes they're givin' away? Instead of bein' the chief pushes we should have brought an axe and a saw along and got into this contest too.

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JIM: (CHUCKLES) I was just lookin' at that pile of prizes, Jerry. There's everything there from cartons of cut plug to calked boots. Some of these lumberjacks are really gonna make a killing.

JERRY: (LAUGHS) You're telling me. And besides all the commercial prizes those are mighty fancy medals the festival committee is giving away too. I wouldn't feel backward about sportin' one of those medals on my watch chain myself.

JIM: Here comes Al.....Howdy Al.

AL: (COMING UP) Hi, Jim. Hi, Jerry..... You fellas might as well give up, Jim. I got it all fixed so that CCC boy, Bucky Rice, of yours hasn't got a chance.

JERRY: Yeah! That's what you think Al. You just wait 'till you see our boy Bucky in action. He's gonna take that chopper of yours, old Hank Olsen, in nothing flat.

JIM: You don't really think your choppers can put anything over on the Forest Service boys do you, Al?

AL: (LAUGHS) Shucks Jim, it's a cinch. But seriously, Jim, this is really going to be some match. Can't tell who's going to win.

JERRY: We've got fourteen entries from all parts of the state.

JIM: I reckon we might as well get started. Are you all set, Al?

AL: Yep. I'll go on down here with the judges and be ready (GOING OFF) whenever you give the word.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) I was just lookin' at that pile of prizes, Jerry. There's everything there from cartons of cut plug to oaked boots. Some of these lumberjacks are really gonna make a killing.

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OLD T: (OFF) Hey Ranger.

JIM: Yo.

JERRY: By George look, he's an old timer, Jim. What do you reckon.....

OLD T: (COMING ON) You the fellows in charge a this here choppin' contest?

JIM: That's right, mister.

O.T.: Well, I been scoutin' all over forty acres for yuh.

JERRY: What's on your mind?

O.T: Well, sir, I figure I want to get into this contest too. Bein' an old hand with a ax an' hearin' about these here fancy prizes bein' give away I just got to figurin' I ought to come on down here an' pack out some of this plunder.

JERRY: H-m-m. 'Fraid you're just a little too late, Dad. The entries are already....

JIM: Hold on, Jerry. I think maybe we could let this fellow get in the contest. There's another place open over there, and we could use him to fill out the field.

JERRY: What! Why he....

O.T.: Yes sir, mebbe I look a l ittle bit road worn, young fella, but I still got plenty a tricks up my sleeve. I figure I o'n teach some of these here young whistle punks a lesson. Time was when old Steve Howe could lay a pine down faster and hit a stake oftener'n any other chopper in these here parts. "Lightning" Howe they used to call me, and I reckon .....

JIM: (CHUCKLING) What part of the state do you hail from, Mister?

O.T.: Bout a hund'rd miles back across the mountains over in Negoshy County is where I come from.

JERRY: You mean you've hiked a hundred miles. . . .

O.T.: Yep. Been comin' across thar hills four days now t' git t' this here contest. (CACKLES) My old lady never figured I'd make it, but I lit out an' here I be..... fit as a fiddle an' rarin' t' show these here tin horn whistle punks.....

JIM: All right, Mister. You'll have a chance to....

JERRY: But Jim, it's against.....

JIM: Is that the axe you intend to chop with, Old Timer?

O.T.: Yessir. I don't calc'late on choppin' with no strange axes if I c'n hep it. No sir. I been workin' this old axe down for the past three months an' she's honed down sharp as a razor. See fer yerself.

JIM: U-m-m. Looks like she's sharp enough to shave with all right, Dad, but I'm afraid this tool's a little light for cutting these tough regulation contest logs. We've got some heavier axes....

O.T.: No, sir, mister. This here axe is all I need. I cut timber with this axe all the way from Maine to Montany an' I don't figure....

JIM: (CHUCKLING) All right, Mister. Have it your own way. Here's your number. You go on down there and line up with the rest of the fel'ws and we'll get started right away.

1. C. T.: (GOING OFF) Yessir. I'll go on down there an' get my shirt
2. off an' get ready....
3. JERRY: Jim, you can't let that old guy enter the contest.... even
4. if he has hiked a hundred miles to get here. All the entries
5. were supposed to've been in before now.
6. JIM: That's all right, Jerry. Won't do any harm to make an
7. exception to the rule this time. And this old man....
8. JERRY: I know, Jim, but in competition with those husky young
9. choppers he won't have a chance. And you gotta think of the
10. audience. The spectators come here to see some fast work.
11. They don't wanta be bored watchin' some old coot like this
12. make a fool of himself.
13. JIM: (CHUCKLES) Maybe not, Jerry. They say there's no fool
14. like an old fool but just the same this old timer might
15. surprise yuh. That old logger may have some steam left in
16. him yet.
17. JERRY: Huh! That old man hasn't got any more chance in this contest
18. than I'd have fighting Joe Louis.
19. JIM: Well, we'll wait and see, Jerry.... I want to go down and
20. see Bess a minute before we get started. (FADING) Go
21. ahead and get the boys ready to start and I'll be right
22. back.
23. MUSIC UP AND OUT
24.
25.

JERRY: (ANNOUNCING) All right boys, you all know the rules. One cut through the log with an axe, and remember there'll be prizes for the first four place winners. Get ready now and when I fire the gun that'll be the signal to go. (SLIGHT DELAY) Hurry up, Dad. Spit on your hands once more and let's go.

(NEARBY SNICKERS)

O.T.: (SLIGHTLY OFF) I'm all ready, young feller. Fire away.

JERRY: All right... on your marks... get set....(SOUND OF PISTOL BEING FIRED)

SOUND OF FURIOUS CHOPPING AND SHOUTS FROM CROWD BACK

JIM: (CHUCKLING) That old timer's a real old logger all right. Even down to red wool underwear.

JERRY: Yeah. I guess he could handle an ax all right, in his day. I still don't think it's right for him to be in this contest though....

JIM: Well, the people seem to like him all right, Jerry. He's gettin' plenty of help from the crowd.

JERRY: Yeah Jim, but the old fellow hasn't even got a cut in one side yet and look at some of the others. Bucky Rice and Hank Olsen and two or three others are almost through.

JIM: It's going to be nip and tuck between Bucky and Hank all right.

JERRY: Looks like Bucky's a little ahead, Jim.

JIM: Uh huh. . . H-m-m. That's tough luck. The old man's hit an inside knot right in the middle of his cut.

SHOUTS FROM CROWD UP

JERRY: Look at Bucky! He's through, Jim! He's through! Bucky beat Hank Olson. That's our CCC boy, Bucky. Al Perkins can't say anything about our boys not bein good woodcutters now.

(FADING WITH SHOUTS FROM CROWD)

(SLIGHT PAUSE)

FADE IN SOUND OF SLOW METHODICAL CHOPPING OF ONE MAN WITH SUBDUED BUZZ OF CROWD BACK

JERRY: Jim, that old man's never gonna get through that log. The contest's all over. Why don't you make him stop?

JIM: Might as well let him finish, Jerry... (CHOPPING STOPS)... Oh oh, he's busted his axe. I didn't think that light axe would stand up, and he drew the toughest old log in the lot too.

(BUZZ OF CROWD UP A LITTLE)

JERRY: Well I guess he's gonna have to quit now. He can't chop with a broken axe.... Look at him. Moppin' his head. The poor old guy's about all done in.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) He's not licked yet, Jerry. Look what he's doin' now.

JERRY: Oh for the love of Mike. He's borrowed another axe and he's goin' back at it again. Jim make him....

SOUND OF CHOPPING RESUMED WITH ROAR OF APPROVAL FROM THE CROWD

JIM: This is a real exhibition, Jerry. Listen to the crowd.

JERRY: By George, you do have to hand it to the old boy. He just won't quit. Look at all the photographers runnin' up to take pictures of him. He's gonna get more publicity than the winners.

LOUD CHEERS FROM CROWD

JIM: There she goes! He finally busted her through. (CHOPPING STOPS) (CROWD ROARS)

JERRY: Say Jim, you know I sorta feel sorry for the old man. He sure stuck to it, long after all the young fellas were through....

AL: (COMING UP) Well you don't have to -- -- here's somethin' for the old man that some lady sent up. She wants to give this to the old man because he didn't quit cuttin' on the log.

JERRY: Well for... Holy Old Mackinaw, Jim! Jim look at this! Somebody in the crowd sent it up. It's a twenty-dollar bill. Oh boy, will the old man be tickled when he gets this!

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, I reckon there's always a reward for perseverance, Jerry. You know, they say that's how the snail got to the ark.

MUSIC: FINALE

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JIM: There she goes! He finally bested her through. (CHOPPING STOPS) (CROWD ROARS)

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Well, folks, we've just had a look-in on a Forest Festival. You'll be interested to know there's one place in the United States where the Forest Festival has become a State insitution. And that's in the Mountain State of West Virginia. Held at Elkins, the headquarters town of the scenic Monongahela National Forest and within an area in which there are also many splendid State parks and forests, the Mountain State Forest Festival is staged against a superb natural background. And coming in early autumn when the West Virginia forests are resplendent in the gala colors of fall, this unique folk festival dedicated to the appreciation and conservation of the State's forest resources attracts tens of thousands of people each year. The program is one of elaborate pageantry, parades and peculiar mountain country contests. And exhibits featuring the forest products and scenery for which West Virginia has long been famous fill the town. The Eleventh Annual Mountain StateForest Festival will be held in Elkins, West Virginia, this year on the third, fourth and fifth of October.

Another Forest Festival is to be held this year at Waycross, Georgia --- the annual Slash Pine Festival, scheduled for the week of November 11 to 16. This year's program will include a motorcade tour to see federal, state, and private demonstrations in the slash pine forests, also the dedication of the Herty Memorial Forest.

9:35 AM -- ho
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